

Kamula language

Kamula (Kamira, Wawoi) is a Trans–New Guinea language that is unclassified within that family in the classification of Malcolm Ross (2005). Noting insufficient evidence, Pawley and Hammarström (2018) leave it as unclassified.^[3]

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Demographics

Kamula is spoken in two widely separated areas^{[3]:80}, including in Kamiyami village of the Wawoi Falls area in Bamu Rural LLG, Western Province, Papua New Guinea.^[4]

Routamaa (1994: 7) estimates that there are about 800 speakers of Kamula located in 3 villages in Western Province, with no dialectal differences reported.^[5] This is because the Kamula had originally lived in camps near Samokopa in the northern area, but a group had split off and moved to Wasapea in the south only around 50 years ago.^{[6]:14}

- *Kesiki*, at Wawoi Falls in Bamu Rural LLG (main village) (6.951833°S 142.654804°E)
- *Samokopa* in Bamu Rural LLG (one day's walk from Kesiki) (6.931064°S 142.746689°E)
- *Wasapea* (*Kamiyami*^[7]) in Gogodala Rural LLG (seven days' walk, or 90 km to the south of Kesiki) (7.889003°S 142.648998°E)^[8]

In the northern villages of Kesiki and Samokopa, Kamula children were reported as preferring to speak Doso over Kamula. A minority of Kamula people in the northern area also live in Dibiyaso-speaking villages, where they are multilingual in Kamula, Doso, and Dibiyaso. Kamula people in the southern village of Wasapea are also fluent in Gogodala.^[7]

Classification

Kamula	
Wawoi	
Region	Western Province, Papua New Guinea
Native speakers	800 (1998) ^[1]
Language family	Trans–New Guinea or unclassified <ul style="list-style-type: none">Awin–Pa<ul style="list-style-type: none">Kamula
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	xla
Glottolog	kamu1260 (http://glottolog.org/resource/language/id/kamu1260) ^[2]
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Map: The Kamula language of New Guinea	
<input type="checkbox"/> The Kamula language	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other Trans–New Guinea languages	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other Papuan languages	
<input type="checkbox"/> Austronesian languages	
<input type="checkbox"/> Uninhabited	
Coordinates: 6.951833°S 142.654804°E	

Map: The Kamula language of New Guinea

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The Kamula language

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Other Trans–New Guinea languages

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Other Papuan languages

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Austronesian languages

☐

Uninhabited

Coordinates: 6.951833°S 142.654804°E

The little data that exists for Kamula pronouns does not fit in with the neighboring East Strickland or Bosavi languages (though 1sg *nê* likely reflects proto-TNG **na*), so Kamula is best left as an unclassified language an independent branch of Trans–New Guinea pending further study.

Attested pronouns are 1sg *nẽ*, 2sg *wẽ*, and pl *diɛ*.

Phonology

Kamula phonology:^[9]

Consonants

Kamula has 12 consonants.

	Bilabial	Dental	Alveolar	Palatal	Velar	Glottal
plosive	p	t̪	d		k g	
nasal	m		n			
fricative			s			h
approximant	w			j		
lateral approximant			l			

Vowels

Kamula has 7 vowels.

	Front	Central	Back
close	i		u
close-mid	e		o
open-mid	ɛ		ɔ
open		a	

References

1. Kamula (<https://www.ethnologue.com/18/language/xla/>) at *Ethnologue* (18th ed., 2015)
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3. Pawley, Andrew; Hammarström, Harald (2018). "The Trans New Guinea family". In Palmer, Bill (ed.). *The Languages and Linguistics of the New Guinea Area: A Comprehensive Guide*. The World of Linguistics. 4. Berlin: De Gruyter Mouton. pp. 21–196. ISBN 978-3-11-028642-7.
4. Eberhard, David M.; Simons, Gary F.; Fennig, Charles D., eds. (2019). "Papua New Guinea languages" (<https://www.ethnologue.com/country/PG/languages>). *Ethnologue: Languages of the World* (22nd ed.). Dallas: SIL International.

5. Routamaa, Judy. 1994. *Kamula grammar essentials* (<https://pnglanguages.sil.org/resources/archives/31163>).
 6. Routamaa, Judy. 1997. *Orthography paper Kamula, Western province* (<https://www.sil.org/resources/archives/31045>).
 7. Routamaa, Iska and Judy Routamaa. 1996. *Dialect survey report of the Kamula language, Western province* (<https://www.sil.org/resources/archives/31075>).
 8. United Nations in Papua New Guinea (2018). "Papua New Guinea Village Coordinates Lookup" (<https://data.humdata.org/dataset/village-coordinates-lookup>). *Humanitarian Data Exchange*. 1.31.9.
 9. Routamaa, Judy. 1995. *Kamula phonology essentials* (<https://www.sil.org/resources/archives/31117>).
- Ross, Malcolm (2005). "Pronouns as a preliminary diagnostic for grouping Papuan languages". In Andrew Pawley; Robert Attenborough; Robin Hide; Jack Golson (eds.). *Papuan pasts: cultural, linguistic and biological histories of Papuan-speaking peoples*. Canberra: Pacific Linguistics. pp. 15–66. ISBN 0858835622. OCLC 67292782 (<https://www.worldcat.org/oclc/67292782>).

External links

- [TransNewGuinea.org database](http://transnewguinea.org/language/kamula) (<http://transnewguinea.org/language/kamula>)
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